

**WEEKLY REPORT**  
**Region 9**  
**Environmental Protection Agency**  
**February 13, 2017**

**THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 6, - FEBRUARY 10, 2017**

**CA Aquifer Exemptions:** We approved the State of California's request to expand existing aquifer exemptions in the Fruitvale, Round Mountain, and Tejon Oil fields of Kern County. These approvals are based on our determination that the aquifers do not currently serve as a source of drinking water and will not serve as a source of drinking water in the future. We expect the State to submit as many as 30 requests for new or expanded aquifer exemptions in 2017 as it continues its effort to return to full compliance with the SDWA. (Albright x23971).

**CNMI Impaired Waters List:** We approved the CNMI list of impaired waters needing TMDLs. Three waterbody/pollutant combinations were removed from the previous list because water quality standards are now being attained but 18 new impairments were added. The most prevalent impairments are due to phosphate, enterococci, and dissolved oxygen. (Tachiki x23161)

**Deliberative Process (b) (5) )**

**Dzil Libei (Cameron) Elementary School Drinking Water**

**Enforcement (b) (7) (A)**

Cameron Elementary School operates a public water system, which is located within the exterior boundaries of the Navajo Nation Reservation, and the school is owned by the District. The District is providing bottled water to the school's 60 to 70 students and faculty; the majority of the students are members of the Navajo Nation.

**Enforcement (b) (7) (A)**

(Pringle x23548)

**Army Corps and CA Dispute Over San Francisco Bay Dredging:** The Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District announced that its routine maintenance dredging program this year will exclude the Port of Richmond outer harbor due to regulatory conflicts with the State of CA. The State has sued the Corps for disregarding its recent requirements to use dredging methods that reduce impacts to listed fish. Rather than use the alternative equipment, the Corps decided not to dredge this important channel that supports the deep water oil offloading dock used by the Chevron refinery. EPA is a partner agency in the SF Bay Long Term Management Strategy (LTMS) partnership managing bay dredging but has no direct action in this dispute. (Ross x23475)

**Bi-national Task Force on Emergency Preparedness and Response:** The Task Force met in Nogales, Sonora to share information on incidents and to provide and participate in training on the Incident Command System and first responder operation, among other topics. (Jones 619-235-4776)

**San Fernando Valley, CA,**

**Enforcement (b) (7) (A)**

(Connell x74278 or Hafiz 213-244-1814)

**Administrative Order on Consent for Engineering Evaluation and Cost Assessment at Ruby Mines Site, Navajo Reservation:** We entered into an AOC with Western Nuclear, Inc., to conduct an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis ("EE/CA") at the Ruby Mines Site. Pursuant to the AOC, Western Nuclear will assess alternatives for cleanup of the uranium and radium-226 contamination that remains from the historic operation of four uranium mines at the Smith Lake Chapter of Navajo Nation. The company also agreed to reimburse our past costs and future oversight costs for the EE/CA. The Region consulted with Navajo Nation before finalizing the AOC. (Williams x23867 and Ripperda x23028)

*For Internal Distribution Only*

**Childhood Lead Case, Honolulu, HI:** Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) notified us that an 18-month-old child had highly elevated (37 ug/dl) blood lead levels (BLL). We deployed an EPA START Contractor from Honolulu to perform sampling in the home with a Hawaii State OSC. Based on the results of sampling the family's home and vehicle, it was found that the child was exposed to lead from his father's welding occupation. The State educated the parents and is continuing its investigation. (Moxley x23114)

### **THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 13, - FEBRUARY 17, 2017**

**Red Hill Tour and Meetings:** We and Navy officials will tour the Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility in Hawaii. We will meet with Hawaii DOH, Navy, USGS and Hawaii Board of Water Supply to discuss technical issues related to implementation of the Administrative Order on Consent (AOC). We will also meet with State Senator Mike Gabbard to discuss the status of AOC implementation and Senator Gabbard's proposed legislation that would mandate secondary containment. **Deliberative Process (b) (5) )**

(Tu x23269)

**Exclusion for Air Curtain Incinerators:** **Deliberative Process (b) (5) )**

(Nguyen x74120)

**Wetlands Permit** **Deliberative Process (b) (5) )**

(Morgan x23309 and Rosetti x23070).

**Vegetation Island to be Deployed in RESES Project:** On February 15<sup>th</sup>, ORD will set up a floating vegetation island in collaboration with the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe in Havasu Lake, CA to evaluate the effectiveness of floating vegetated islands in removing nutrients from the water column. This R9 Regional Sustainable Environmental Science (RESES) project complements a similar floating island deployment in No Name Lake by the Colorado River Indian Tribe (CRIT) last November. Both Chemehuevi and CRIT will conduct monitoring to track nutrient levels. (Sockabasin x23772 and Hall x74123)

**Ammonia Safety Day:** We are partnering with the Ammonia Safety Training Institute, the Refrigerating Engineers and Technicians Association, the Nevada State Emergency Response Commission, the Clark County Local Emergency Planning Committee, OSHA, DHS and others to sponsor a February 14 safety day. The training brings together industry, first responders and regulators to learn about anhydrous ammonia and better prepare, prevent and respond to incidents. The ultimate goal with respect to hazardous materials incidents is to prevent them all or stop them small. (Jones 619-235-4776)